

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 7/18/2008, with respect to new claims 10-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sungho Hong (Reg. No. 54,571) on 11/20/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: "the driving source" in line 12 of this claim has been replaced with -- the drive source --.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 10-15 are allowed.

4. The reason for allowance can be found in the Applicant's remark filed 7/18/2008. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all

limitations of claim 10 that includes **“the drive mechanism includes a first drive member that receives the drive force from the drive source to be operated to drive the plural light-blocking members, and a second drive member that receives drive force from the first drive member to be operated to drive the neutral density filter, and wherein the second drive member does not receive the drive force from the first drive member until the area of the light-passing aperture reaches a predetermined area, and receives the drive force from the first drive member after the area of the light-passing aperture reaches the predetermined area to be operated to drive the neutral density filter at a moving speed higher than that of the plural light-blocking members with respect to the fixed opening.”**

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NHAN T. TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NHAN T. TRAN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622